

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 2-4, 7-8, 10, 17-18, 23, 27-29, 32-33, 35, 41, 43-45, 49, and 52-55.

The claims are as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 4, wherein the dataset is a ~~non-SAP-formatted~~ dataset formatted such that the dataset is not readable by a program or module of the business information system.
3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 4, wherein the dataset is a ~~SAP-formatted dataset~~ formatted such that the dataset is readable by any program or module of the business information system.
4. (Currently amended) A system comprising a processor and a computer readable memory unit coupled to the processor, said memory unit containing instructions that when executed by the processor implement a method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system using data included within an Aspect file, said method comprising executing a ~~non-SAP~~ bridge program not comprised by the business information system, said executing including:

generating the Aspect file through use of data derived from a dataset, said generating using a first operating system, said Aspect file not readable by the SAP business information

system only because the SAP business information system is functioning within a second operating system that differs from the first operating system;

converting the Aspect file into a Temp file that is readable by the SAP business information system; and

transmitting the Temp file to the SAP business information system, wherein the SAP business information system ~~comprises an SAP Executive Information System (EIS)~~ has reporting capabilities in conjunction with a business data warehouse.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the bridge program is further adapted to cause the rollup records in the generated Aspect file to be sorted with respect to the keygroup.

7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the dataset is ~~a non-SAP-formatted dataset~~ formatted such that the dataset is not readable by a program or module of the business information system

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the dataset is ~~a SAP-formatted dataset~~ formatted such that the dataset is readable by any program or module of the business information system.

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the bridge program is further adapted

to generate a trace file that includes a representative rollup keyvalue of the keygroup and a pointer that points to a portion of the dataset, said portion being correlated with the representative rollup keyvalue.

10. (Currently amended) A system for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system using data included within an Aspect file having rollup records, said system comprising a non-SAP bridge program not comprised by the business information system, wherein the bridge program is adapted to generate the Aspect file through use of data derived from a dataset and to transmit the Aspect file to the SAP business information system, said dataset having a keygroup, wherein to generate the Aspect file includes to roll up a portion of the dataset with respect to the keygroup, wherein each rollup record has a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field stores a rollup keyvalue of the keygroup, wherein the quantity field stores the number of dataset records that have the same rollup keyvalue, wherein each rollup record has a unique rollup keyvalue, and wherein the SAP business information system comprises a SAP-Executive-Information-System (EIS) has reporting capabilities in conjunction with a business data warehouse.

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the bridge program is further adapted to identify select records of the dataset in accordance with at least one selection rule applied to the dataset, and wherein the portion of the dataset includes the select records so identified.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein to identify the select records includes to accept as

input a first date and a second date, wherein the first date is earlier than the second date, and wherein the selection rules do not permit identifying as a select record any record of the dataset having an effective date that is earlier than the first date or later than the second date.

13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the dataset is selected from the group consisting of a table, a spreadsheet, and a combination thereof.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the rollup records include the procurement data.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 23, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a ~~non-SAP-formatted dataset~~ formatted such that the dataset is not readable by a program or module of the business information system.

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 23, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a ~~SAP-formatted dataset~~ formatted such that the dataset is readable by any program or module of the business information system.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets and a second dataset of the N datasets have different formats.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the datasets D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N have formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N , respectively, wherein the at least one bridge program comprises N bridge programs P_1, P_2, \dots, P_N respectively keyed to the formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N for respectively generating the Aspect files A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N .

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the datasets D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N have formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N , respectively, and wherein the at least one bridge program consists of one bridge program having logical paths L_1, L_2, \dots, L_N respectively keyed to the formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N for respectively generating the Aspect files A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N .

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the selection rules are the same for each of the N datasets.

23. (Currently amended) A system for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system using and combining data included within N Aspect files A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N respectively having rollup records $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$, said N at least 2, said system comprising at least one non-SAP bridge program not comprised by the business information system, wherein the bridge program is adapted to respectively generate the N Aspect files through use of data derived from select records $[S]_1, [S]_2, \dots, [S]_N$ of N datasets D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N , respectively, and to

transmit the N Aspect files to the SAP business information system, said select records $[S]_1$, $[S]_2$, ..., $[S]_N$ having a common keygroup, wherein to generate the N Aspect files comprises, for $I = 1, 2, \dots$, and N:

to identify the select records $[S]_i$ in accordance with selection rules applied to D_i ; and

to roll up the select records $[S]_i$ with respect to the common keygroup, wherein the rollup records $[R]_i$ corresponding to $[S]_i$ have a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field stores a rollup keyvalue of the select records $[S]_i$, wherein the quantity field stores the number of select records of $[S]_i$ that have the same rollup keyvalue, wherein each rollup record $[R]_i$ has a unique rollup keyvalue, and wherein the SAP business information system ~~comprises a SAP Executive Information System (EIS)~~ has reporting capabilities in conjunction with a business data warehouse.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the rollup records $[R]_1$, $[R]_2$, ..., $[R]_N$ include the procurement data.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the dataset is ~~a non-SAP-formatted dataset~~ formatted such that the dataset is not readable by a program or module of the business

information system.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the dataset is ~~a SAP-formatted dataset~~ formatted such that the dataset is readable by any program or module of the business information system.

29. (Currently amended) A method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a ~~SAP~~ business information system using data included within an Aspect file, said method comprising executing a non-~~SAP~~ bridge program not comprised by the business information system, said executing including:

generating the Aspect file through use of data derived from a dataset, said generating using a first operating system, said Aspect file not readable by the ~~SAP~~ business information system only because the ~~SAP~~ business information system is functioning within a second operating system that differs from the first operating system;

converting the Aspect file into a Temp file that is readable by the ~~SAP~~ business information system; and

transmitting the Temp file to the ~~SAP~~ business information system, wherein the ~~SAP~~ business information system ~~comprises an SAP Executive Information System (EIS)~~ has reporting capabilities in conjunction with a business data warehouse.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein generating the Aspect file includes causing the rollup records in the generated Aspect file to be sorted with respect to the keygroup.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the dataset is a ~~non-SAP-formatted~~ dataset formatted such that the dataset is not readable by a program or module of the business information system.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the dataset is a ~~SAP-formatted-dataset~~ formatted such that the dataset is readable by any program or module of the business information system.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising generating a trace file that includes a representative rollup keyvalue of the keygroup and a pointer that points to a portion of the dataset, said portion being correlated with the representative rollup keyvalue.

35. (Currently amended) A method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system using data included within an Aspect file having rollup records, said method comprising:

providing a dataset having a keygroup; and

executing a non-SAP bridge program not comprised by the business information system,

including generating the Aspect file, said generating comprising rolling up a portion of the dataset with respect to the keygroup, wherein each rollup record has a rollup field and a quantity

field, wherein the rollup field stores a rollup keyvalue of the keygroup, wherein the quantity field stores the number of dataset records that have the same rollup keyvalue, wherein each rollup record has a unique rollup keyvalue, and
wherein the SAP business information system comprises a SAP Executive Information System (EIS) has reporting capabilities in conjunction with a business data warehouse.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising identifying select records of the dataset in accordance with at least one selection rule applied to the dataset, said portion of the dataset including the select records so identified.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, said identifying including accepting as input a first date and a second date, said first date earlier than said second date, said selection rules not permitting said identifying to identify as a select record any record of the dataset having an effective date that is earlier than the first date or later than the second date.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the dataset is selected from the group consisting of a table, a spreadsheet, and a combination thereof.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the rollup records include the procurement data.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group

consisting of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

transmitting the Aspect file to the SAP business information system where the Aspect file becomes a Temp file having the rollup records;

making a query to sum over the quantity field for a subset of the rollup records of the Temp file, wherein the subset is determined by the query, and wherein the query is adapted to being executed by a SAP module in the SAP computing environment of the business information system; and

executing the query by the SAP module including returning a result of the query.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 49, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a non-SAP-formatted dataset formatted such that the dataset is not readable by a program or module of the business information system.

44. (Currently amended) The method of claim 49, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a SAP-formatted dataset formatted such that the dataset is readable by any program or module of the business information system.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 49, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets and a

second dataset of the N datasets have different formats.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the datasets D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N have formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N , respectively, wherein the at least one bridge program comprises N bridge programs P_1, P_2, \dots, P_N respectively keyed to the formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N for respectively generating the Aspect files A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N .

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the datasets D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N have formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N , respectively, and wherein the at least one bridge program consists of one bridge program having logical paths L_1, L_2, \dots, L_N respectively keyed to the formats F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N for respectively generating the Aspect files A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N .

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the selection rules are the same for each of the N datasets.

49. (Currently amended) A method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system using and combining data included within N Aspect files A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N respectively having rollup records $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$, said N at least 2, said method comprising providing N datasets D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N having a common keygroup, and for $I = 1, 2, \dots$, and N executing a non-SAP bridge program not comprised by the business information system, including:

identifying select records $[S]_i$ of the dataset D_i , said identifying in accordance with

selection rules applied to D_i ; and

rolling up the select records $[S]_i$ with respect to the common keygroup, wherein the rollup records $[R]_i$ corresponding to $[S]_i$ have a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field stores a rollup keyvalue of the select records $[S]_i$, wherein the quantity field stores the number of select records of $[S]_i$ that have the same rollup keyvalue, wherein each rollup record $[R]_i$ has a unique rollup keyvalue, and wherein the ~~SAP~~ business information system ~~comprises a SAP~~ Executive-Information-System (EIS) has reporting capabilities in conjunction with a business data warehouse.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the rollup records $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$ include the procurement data.

51. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

52. (Currently amended) The method of claim 49, further comprising:

transmitting the Aspect file A_i to the ~~SAP~~ business information system where the Aspect file A_i becomes a Temp file T_i having the rollup records $[R]_i$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots$, and N ;

making a query to sum over the quantity field for a subset of the rollup records of the N Temp files in composite, wherein the subset is determined by the query, and wherein the query is adapted to being executed by a ~~SAP~~ module ~~in the SAP computing environment~~ of the business information system; and

executing the query by the SAP module including returning a result of the query.

53. (Currently amended) A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein, said computer readable program code comprising an algorithm adapted to implement a method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system using data included within an Aspect file, said method comprising executing a ~~non-SAP~~ bridge program not comprised by the business information system, said executing including:

generating the Aspect file through use of data derived from a dataset, said generating using a first operating system, said Aspect file not readable by the SAP business information system only because the SAP business information system is functioning within a second operating system that differs from the first operating system;

converting the Aspect file into a Temp file that is readable by the SAP business information system; and

transmitting the Temp file to the SAP business information system, wherein the SAP business information system ~~comprises an SAP-Executive-Information-System (EIS)~~ has reporting capabilities in conjunction with a business data warehouse.

54. (Currently amended) A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system using data included within an Aspect file having rollup records, said program code comprising a ~~non-SAP~~ bridge program not comprised by the

business information system, wherein the bridge program is adapted to generate the Aspect file through use of data derived from a dataset and to transmit the Aspect file to the SAP business information system, said dataset having a keygroup, wherein to generate the Aspect file includes to roll up a portion of the dataset with respect to the keygroup, wherein each rollup record has a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field stores a rollup keyvalue of the keygroup, wherein the quantity field stores the number of dataset records that have the same rollup keyvalue, wherein each rollup record has a unique rollup keyvalue, and wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP Executive Information System (EIS) has reporting capabilities in conjunction with a business data warehouse.

55. (Currently amended) A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system using and combining data included within N Aspect files A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N respectively having rollup records $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$, said N at least 2, said program code comprising at least one non-SAP bridge program not comprised by the business information system, wherein the bridge program is adapted to respectively generate the N Aspect files through use of data derived from select records $[S]_1, [S]_2, \dots, [S]_N$ of N datasets D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N , respectively, and to transmit the N Aspect files to the SAP business information system, said select records $[S]_1, [S]_2, \dots, [S]_N$ having a common keygroup, wherein to generate the N Aspect files comprises, for $J = 1, 2, \dots$, and N:

to identify the select records $[S]_i$ in accordance with selection rules applied to D_i ; and

to roll up the select records $[S]_i$ with respect to the common keygroup, wherein the rollup

records $[R]_i$ corresponding to $[S]_i$ have a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field stores a rollup keyvalue of the select records $[S]_i$, wherein the quantity field stores the number of select records of $[S]_i$ that have the same rollup keyvalue, wherein each rollup record $[R]_i$ has a unique rollup keyvalue, and wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP Executive Information System (EIS) has reporting capabilities in conjunction with a business data warehouse.